



## Thank You!

I was holding the lift door open for some time as a lady walked slowly into the lift. When she entered, I expected a word of thanks or a nod of appreciation. But nothing. When the lift opened, she just walked away. I thought to myself: "Jerk! I am never again going to hold the lift open for anyone else".

Today's Gospel is about the Ten lepers, and this story reveals two different aspects of gratitude. Ten lepers spent time and effort to seek and find Jesus because they wanted Jesus to heal them. Yet, while all ten were cured, only one bothered to return to Jesus with loud praise and thanksgiving. Jesus was surely disappointed that the other nine did not think they needed to seek Jesus again so as to thank him when their prayers were answered. This attitude is so typical of us. We often take God for granted. When we need urgent help, we will be in church and on our knees praying and pleading every day. But when our prayers are answered, we forget about Jesus and the Church, until the next time we need God to answer a new prayer. We have effectively reduced God to an umbrella - looking for God only when it rains in our lives!

It is not only God. We also take people for granted. When a person does us a kind deed, we no longer say 'Thank you'. We act as if it is expected that the other person has to help. "Thank You" appears to be the most under-appreciated and under-used phrase on the planet! So let's stop and tell the Lord, "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!" To everyone who just did us a kind deed or gave us a compliment, let's say "Thank you!"

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653

T 6255 2133

F 6356 9910

E secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com

W novenachurch.com

PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS

novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

We can remember to be grateful. But what if other people don't thank us for our kindness? Fortunately for us, Jesus did not get angry and say: "Ungrateful people. Never again will I help!" Neither did he retaliate. Jesus just carried on with his Healing ministry; curing others.

So we should also be like our Lord and Master - don't stop the goodness and kindness. In this context, I recall the words found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta:

"People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. *Forgive them anyway.*

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. *Be kind anyway.* If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. *Succeed anyway.*

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. *Be honest and sincere anyway.*

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. *Create anyway.*

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. *Be happy anyway.*

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. *Do good anyway.*

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. *Give your best anyway.*

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

## Reflection by Ros

# Novena notes



28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Year C

13 October 2019

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 13 October	2 Kgs 5:14-17; 2 Tim 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19 The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.
Mon, 14 October St. Callistus I	Rom 1:1-7; Lk 11:29-32 The Lord has made known his salvation.
Tue, 15 October St. Teresa of Jesus	Rom 1:16-25; Lk 11:37-41 The heavens proclaim the glory of God.
Wed, 16 October St. Gerard Majella, CSSR	Phil 3:8-14; Jn 12:23-32 You are my God, my only good.
Thu, 17 October St. Ignatius of Antioch	Rom 3:21-30; Lk 11:47-54 With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption,
Fri, 18 October St. Luke	2 Tim 4:10-17; Lk 10:1-9 Your friends, O Lord, shall make known the glorious splendor of your reign.
Sat, 19 October SS. John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions	Rom 4:13,16-18; Lk 12:8-12 The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)

Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm

Confession: Half an hour before Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)

Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS

Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 5.30pm

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

Time: 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS

Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION

English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm

Mandarin: 2.30pm

Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION

Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)  
6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm

# Novena notes

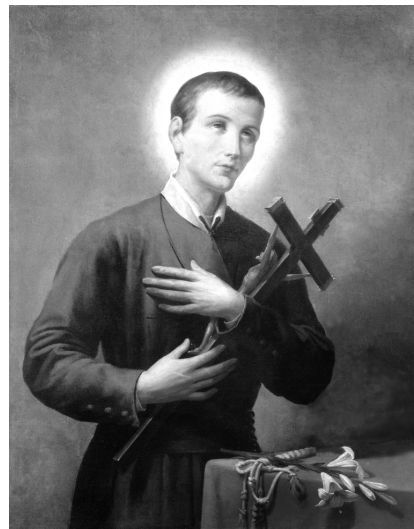
## 16<sup>th</sup> October, Memorial of St. Gerard Majella, CSSR

Gerard Majella was born in Muro Lucano (Potenza) in southern Italy on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1726, in a family of humble circumstances. From his parents, Gerard learned the love of prayer and sacrifice. When his father died, Gerard, being the only boy, had to provide for his family by working as a tailor. At the age of fourteen he sought to enter the Capuchin friary but was rejected because of his delicate health. After a short time as the domestic servant of the bishop of Lacedonia, he returned to tailoring, but with minimal income.

In April 1749, he succeeded in getting himself accepted by the Redemptorists who had preached a popular mission in Muro. After a trial period and a year of novitiate in the house at Deliceto, he made his religious profession on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1752. He was very observant of the rule while at the same time going about the surrounding countryside to collect money for the material needs of the community. His presence to people, who were weighed down by poverty and illiteracy and at the mercy of epidemics and crop failures, was seen as a sign of hope. Gerard had a deep empathy for them and gave to all a testimony to trust in the love and compassion of God.

During his five years as a lay brother in the Congregation, he was remarkable for his apostolic zeal, patience in sickness, love for the poor, deep humility in the face of false accusation, heroic obedience, spirit of penance and constancy in prayer. He wrote numerous letters of spiritual direction and a "Rule of Life". The Lord favoured him with numerous spiritual gifts, among which were prophecy, reading of people's hearts and the gift of miracles. He died at Materdomini (Avellino) on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1755.

He was beatified by Leo XIII on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1893 and canonized by Pius X on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1904. Remembered among the people for his love for them, he is especially invoked as patron for mothers, particularly in times of pregnancy and for their infants.



In honour of St. Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist Brother, there will be a special prayer service to "the Mothers' Saint" on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 8pm in the church. Included will be special prayers to St. Gerard, sharings from those who have had prayers answered through his intercession and a blessing of mothers & children. All are welcome.

In preparation for St. Gerard's feast day, we are inviting anyone who has had prayers for a safe delivery answered through his intercession to share your experience at our prayer service. You may drop off your sharing at the church reception or email it to [receptionist@novenachurch.com](mailto:receptionist@novenachurch.com)

## The Pope's Monthly Intention for October 2019

### *A Missionary "Spring" in the Church*

That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the Church.

## Praying The Rosary

There will be praying of the Rosary at 6pm followed by Mass at 6.30pm from Monday to Friday in the month of October.

## Extraordinary Missionary Month

Pope Francis has declared Mission Sunday this year, and the whole month of October, as the Extraordinary Missionary Month. What is that? Is it just a time to say an extra rosary to pray for missionaries around the world or setting a target for how many people we should recruit into the RCIA and convert? The theme that Pope Francis has chosen for the EMM is 'Baptised and Sent.' And that is the point - it is the baptised, it is all of us, who have been anointed and sent to continue the mission of Jesus. The mission to preach the Good News to those who need to hear it, the most abandoned. The term extraordinary, only refers to the month of October. The task that we have been given to do - living and sharing our faith - should not be extraordinary. It should be ordinary. All of us by virtue of our baptism are called to evangelize - to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

Look out for further reflections every week of this month on the theme of mission.



*The Church of Christ  
on Mission in the World*